DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 379 509 CE 068 347

AUTHOR Scholl, Jan
TITLE 4-H Textile Science Creative Projects.
INSTITUTION Pennsylvania State Univ., University Park. Cooperative Extension Service.
PUB DATE 94
NOTE 38p.; For related documents, see CE 068 343-348.
PUB TYPE Guides - Classroom Use - Instructional Materials (For Learner) (051)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Clothing; Clothing Design; *Clothing Instruction; *Design Crafts; Elementary Secondary Education; Extracurricular Activities; Home Economics; *Home Management; *Learning Activities; *Student Organizations; Student Projects; *Textiles Instruction
IDENTIFIERS *4 H Programs

ABSTRACT

This packet contains four 4-H creative projects for students in the textile sciences area, on the following topics: design, closet organization, clothes shopping, and wardrobe planning. Each project provides an overview of what the student will learn, what materials are needed, and suggested projects for the area. Projects can be adapted for beginning, intermediate, or advanced levels of skills. A step-by-step plan for doing the project, with instruction sheets and line drawings is included. Also included are a project record, ideas for sharing the project with others, and suggestions for additional projects. (KC)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED 379 509

4-H Textile Science Creative Projects

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION
CENTER (ERIC)

☑ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Schott

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

CE068347

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Design

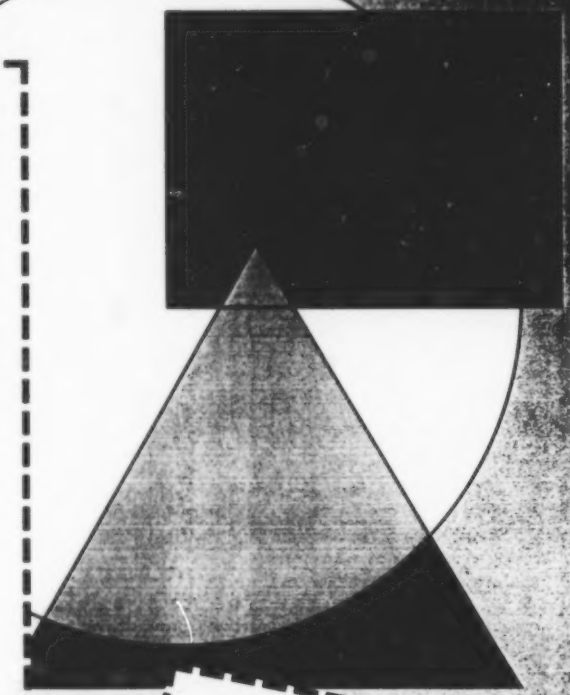
4-H Textile Science

Creative Project

Design is an exciting part of textile science. It gives you the chance to be creative!

For this project, you may choose to do one or more of the following:

1. Apply trims and findings on a garment.
2. Apply folds, tucks, darts, or seam finishes in an interesting way on a garment.
3. Dye fabrics or garments.
4. Paint, applique, embroider, quilt, or do other handwork on textiles or garments.
5. Modify a pattern to create a new garment or improve fit.
6. Update or recycle a purchased garment or household items into a new creation (with "before and after" photos or sketches).
7. Use a flat pattern technique to design your very own fashion.



Getting Ideas

To get ideas, look at pictures in magazines and catalogs. Keep a scrapbook of textile and garment ideas, drawings, and designs. If you don't receive catalogs at home, try looking for them at the public library.

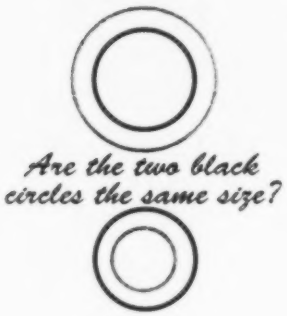
Don't be frightened by the words "design" and "creative." Everything you do with your hands can be creative. The more you play with fabrics and ideas, the more you'll learn and the more ideas will come to you.

PENNSTATE

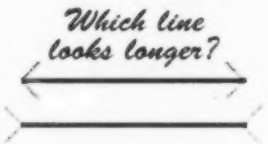
College of
Agricultural Sciences
Cooperative Extension

Elements and Principles of Design

Whether you're designing a new outfit, redecorating a room, or garnishing a meal, the elements and principles of design can aid you. Elements are the "tools" of design—like the paintbrushes you use in art. The principles help you put the tools to use.



Are the two black circles the same size?



Which line looks longer?

ELEMENTS

We create design with line, color, texture, space, and shape.

LINE

Why do we need to study line in design? Because lines can create optical illusions. They can trick the eye! Here are some famous optical illusions and some that are commonly found in clothing. You can find many books and articles on optical illusions in the local library. Sketch a few of these in your scrapbook.

Lines can vary in width and direction. Single vertical lines or a few close vertical lines can make your figure look taller and thinner. But many evenly spaced vertical lines can make the figure appear wider and fuller. Wide vertical lines can make the figure look broader and shorter, too.

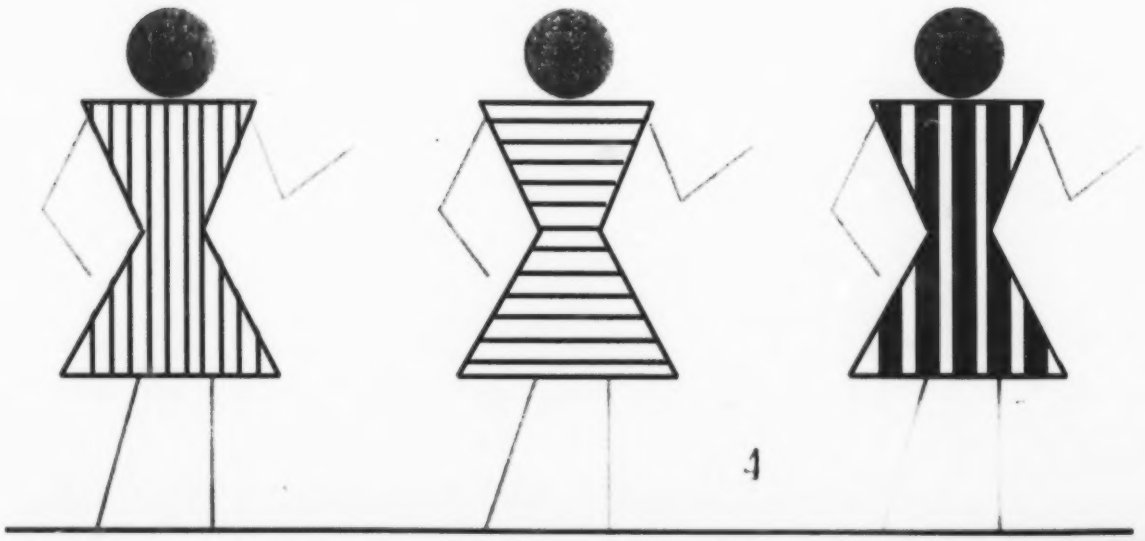
Horizontal lines go across the figure and make it appear wider at that point. Several widely spaced horizontal lines add more width to the figure than a single horizontal line.

Many evenly spaced horizontal lines can make the eye travel vertically from one line to the next for a slimming effect.

Diagonal lines, at a more vertical angle, can make the figure seem taller and slimmer. Diagonal lines, at a more horizontal angle, can make the figure seem wider and fuller. Notice where the lower part of the diagonal is placed on the body. Be sure this is an area you want to emphasize. The eye is naturally drawn there.

Curved lines tend to make the figure look wider, especially if they go in more of a horizontal direction. Many small curved lines attract attention and can look bouncy or frivolous. Curved lines create and emphasize curved shapes.

Select several pictures of garments you like and put them in your scrapbook. Describe what lines are used and how they appear to the eye. You also may want to cut out a few comic strips to see how line is used to create feeling.



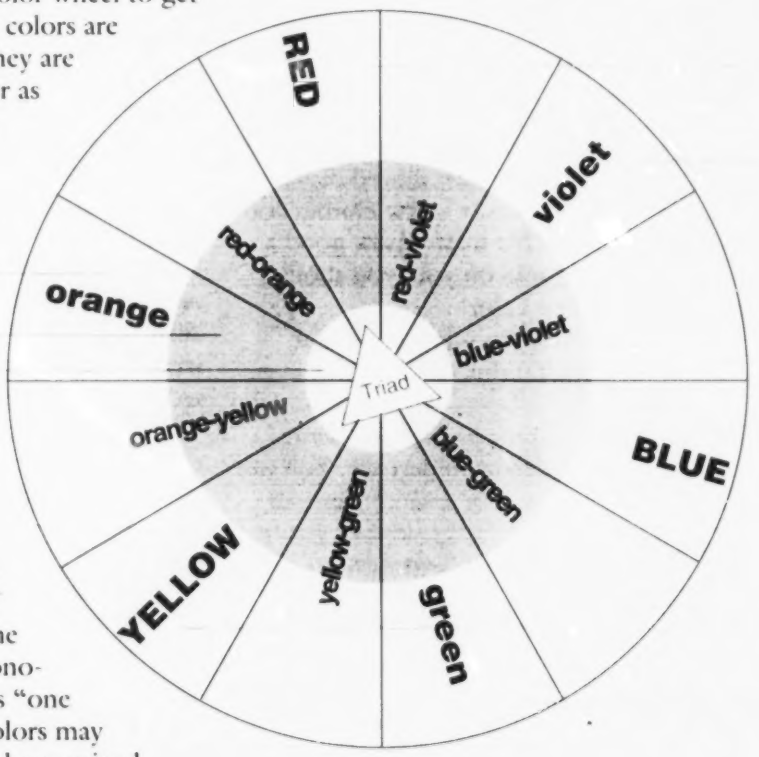
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

COLOR

The first thing you may notice about clothing is its color. There are two main color groups:

- ***Warm colors***—which include reds, yellows, and oranges. These colors are often called sun and fire colors.
- ***Cool colors***—blues, greens, and purples. These colors are often called water and leaf colors.

Color in the color wheel to get an idea of where colors are on the wheel. They are in the same order as they appear in a rainbow!



Monochromatic colors are combinations of colors in the same color family (monochromatic means "one color").These colors may vary if they have been mixed with white or black or if they are brighter or duller than one another. Examples of colors in the same color family are: dark brick red, red, and pink.

Analogous colors are side by side on the color wheel. Examples are blue-green, blue, and blue-purple or red-orange, orange, and yellow-orange.

Complementary colors are those directly across from each other on the color wheel, like red and green. To be most effective, one of the two colors should be used in a smaller amount than the other, or the result will be dull or grayed.

Triad colors are those that form a triangle on the color wheel. Red, blue, and yellow are triad colors. They are also known as ***primary*** colors, because every other color is made from them.

Other combinations based on the color wheel are possible as well. It may be handy to purchase a color wheel with various tints (colors with white added) and shades (colors with black added) so you can try out different combinations. Some color combinations are more pleasing than others.

If you haven't had the experience of creating color, use food coloring to combine the primary colors—blue with red, red with yellow, yellow with blue in equal quantities—to see which colors you create.

Finding Your Best Colors

Your personality should play an important part in the clothes you choose. No matter how good a color looks on you, you should like that color!

When you select colors for yourself, think of your hair, eyes, and skin. Some skin tones have a pink or blue undertone; some have a yellow undertone. You can tell by putting a white paper or card next to your skin; or try on a white and an off-white shirt or blouse. If you look better in white and have a pink or blue undertone, cool colors will be your best colors. If you look better in ivory or have more yellow in your skin, warm colors are best for you.

Of course, most colors are a blend of several different colors. For example, there are many shades of green, including blue-greens and yellow-greens. The green with a hint of blue may be attractive on a person with a pink or blue skin undertone. The yellow-green may complement the skin with a yellow undertone. So people with either skin color type can wear green, depending on the colors added to the green.

If you have trouble deciding what color classification you are in, work with your leader. Hold some pieces of fabric next to your face and look at their effect in the mirror. (Do this without makeup and in normal light.) Which ones do you like best? Ask a friend, a leader, or a parent for their opinions. Another way is to look at the colors of garments you wear often, especially when you receive compliments!

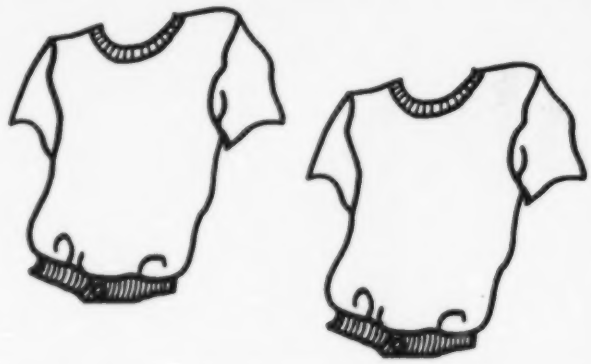
You may want to get your colors "done." A person who sells this service drapes fabrics over you and evaluates which colors look best. You are then "placed" in a particular color season (spring, summer, fall, or winter) or time of day (early morning, afternoon, sunset, and dusk). Why not conduct a color workshop at a group meeting?

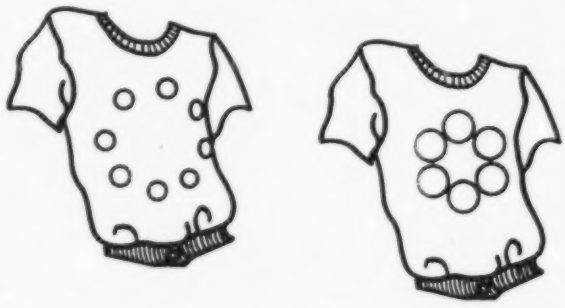
Color "Tricks"

- Color can make your figure or physique look larger or smaller.
- Colors that are warm, light, and bright call attention to themselves and make a space look larger. Colors that are cool, dark, and dull are not so noticeable.
- A two-color outfit, in which the top is a different color from the slacks or skirt, cuts the figure and focuses attention in the area of color change.

TEXTURE

Texture gives the fabric and garment dimension. By looking in a fabric or clothing store, you'll find items that are shiny, smooth, tight and loosely woven, fuzzy, hard, and dull. Texture can affect how color appears in a garment. Shiny and bulky textures often make a shape look fuller. Dull, tightly woven textures can make the figure look smaller.





SPACE

Space can refer to a particular area within a design, or it might be what is often called "white space." White space usually means the space surrounding the design. Both kinds of space are important in design.

SHAPE

Shape is formed by lines, spaces, and patterns, and can be two dimensional or three dimensional. Two-dimensional shape is usually formed by the printed design. Three-dimensional shape is formed by the garment on the body. Both types are closely related. Your body angles and curves can alter the way the printed design looks, just as the shape of the garment can appear to change the body's shape. Interfacing, stiffeners such as crinoline and boning, and even tucks, pleats, and gathers sewn into a garment hold three-dimensional fabric shapes and change the appearance of the printed design. Look at pictures of historic clothing to see how many shapes are possible.

Design elements all work together to create the look of an outfit. Look for examples of design elements in magazines or catalogs. Mount and label them in your scrapbook.

PRINCIPLES

The principles of design are emphasis, balance, proportion, rhythm, and harmony (unity).

EMPHASIS

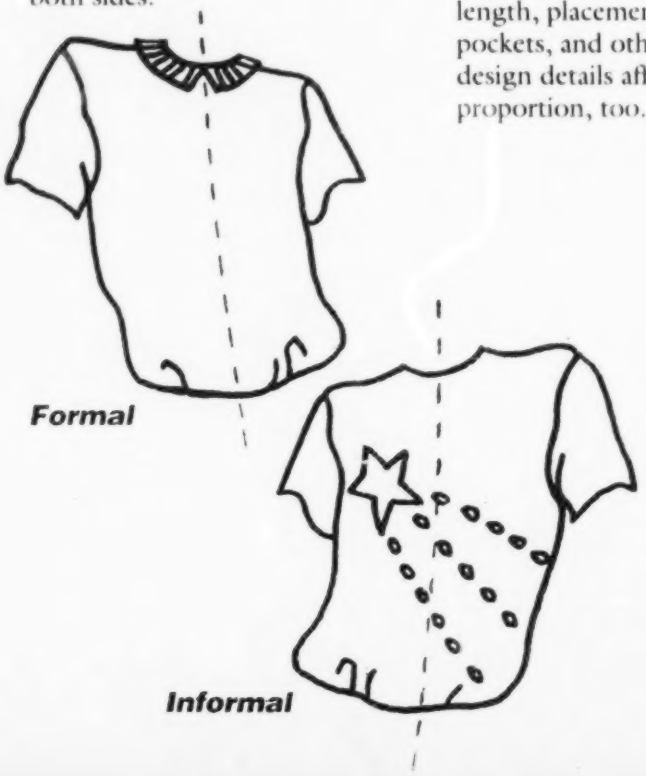
Emphasis is what first attracts your eye to the garment. To create emphasis you need one major center of interest. This may be at the neckline, waist, or another part of the garment. Having too many areas of interest is confusing!

BALANCE

Balance is the stable appearance of one side of the garment with the other. It is created much like balancing weights on either side of a scale or a teeter-totter.

Formal balance is the use of the same lines, colors, or textures on both sides of a central line. Most of our clothing has formal balance.

Informal balance is the use of lines, colors, or textures in a position that looks balanced but that is not exactly the same on both sides.

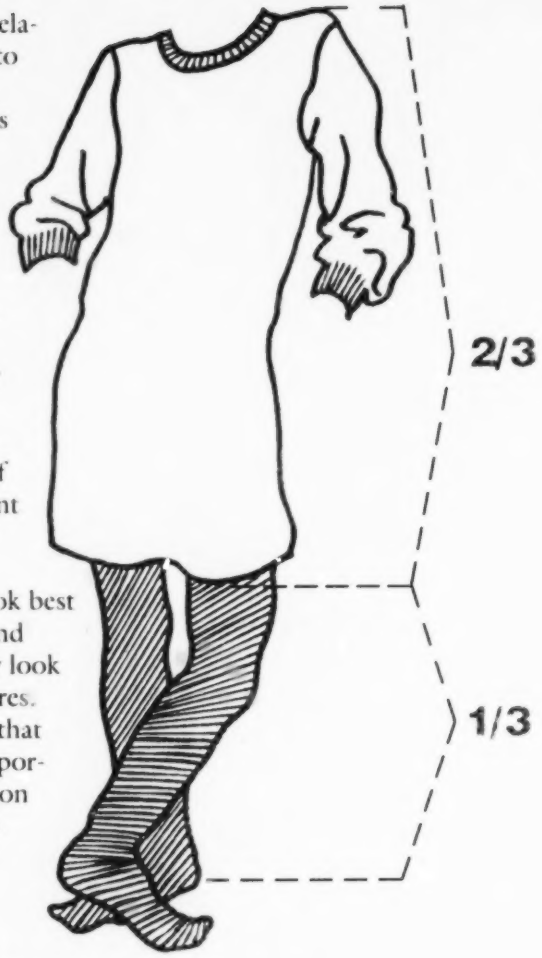


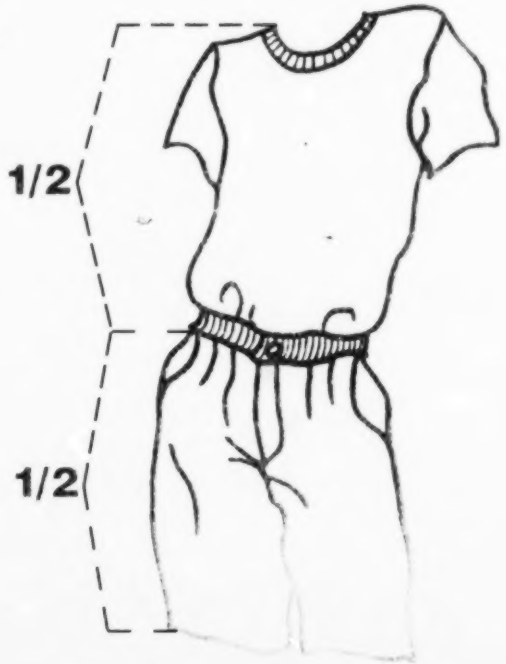
PROPORTION

Proportion is the relationship of spaces to each other. Equal proportions are less interesting than unequal ones. Colors, textures, and lines create different proportions. Look at the proportions in clothing and other familiar objects.

Proportion also refers to the size of print in the garment compared to your body size. Small prints generally look best on small people, and large prints usually look best on larger figures.

Also remember that your body has proportion. Another person the same height as you may have longer legs than torso or just the opposite. Sleeve length, placement of pockets, and other design details affect proportion, too.





RHYTHM

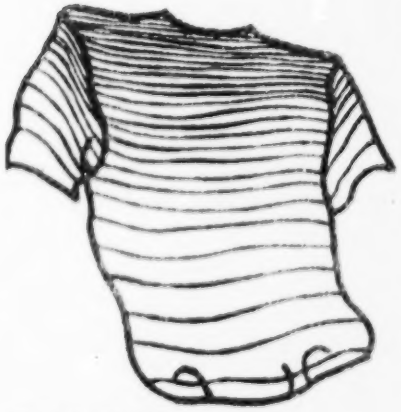
Rhythm moves our eye from one part of the design to another. There are many ways to give our clothing rhythm. One way is to repeat the same design elements: line, color, texture, shape, and space. Look at the following example of repetition.

Another way is through gradation—gradually increasing or decreasing one or more of the design elements.

A third way, very similar to gradation, is through radiation. Think of the sun and its beams. This is radiation—going from a small area to a larger one.

Radiation

Repetition



Gradation

HARMONY

Harmony means that all parts of a design seem to belong together. It means you have used design tools well. Planning a design first, and using a full-length mirror in all stages of your project, can help get the right result. Harmony also means using the right types of fabrics and textures for the garment and its use. You need all these "tools and rules" to create beautiful designs.

Spend some time experimenting with these tools and rules. The more you try them, the more you'll learn about design. Look for them in garments you like and learn how you can make the most of your appearance.

Harmony

What I learned in this project (new skills, new words)

What I shared with others (presentations, helping other members, community service)

TOPIC OR SKILL	DATE	NUMBER IN AUDIENCE

Did I participate in Fashion Revue? _____

Where? _____ When? _____

Project story

Use this space to write about your project. What did you do? What did you enjoy doing the most? The least? Tell about the type of pattern and fabric you selected or made. What did you have the most difficult time making? Include a photo or sketch of your final outfit or design process.

Tell about the fiber content of your fabric(s) and attach sample swatches. Talk about the sewing resources you used, the resource people you talked with, and where you found ideas for your designs.

Design Project Record

4-H Textile Science

Creative Project

Name _____

Address _____

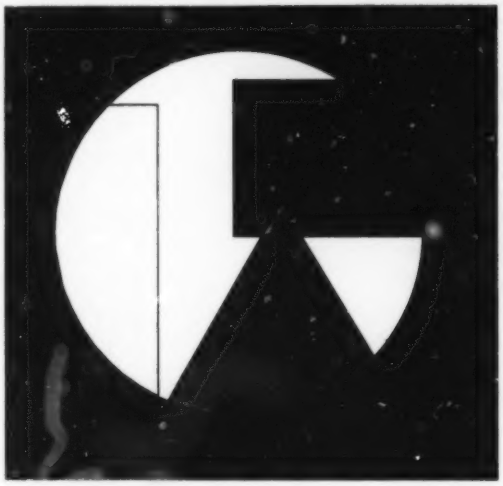
Age as of January 1 _____

Club _____

Number of years in this project _____

Number of years in Textile Science projects _____

Leader's signature _____



What I made for my project

ITEM	FIBER CONTENT	COST	HOURS TO MAKE

Total number of garments made this year_____.

People who helped me and resources I used for this project

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

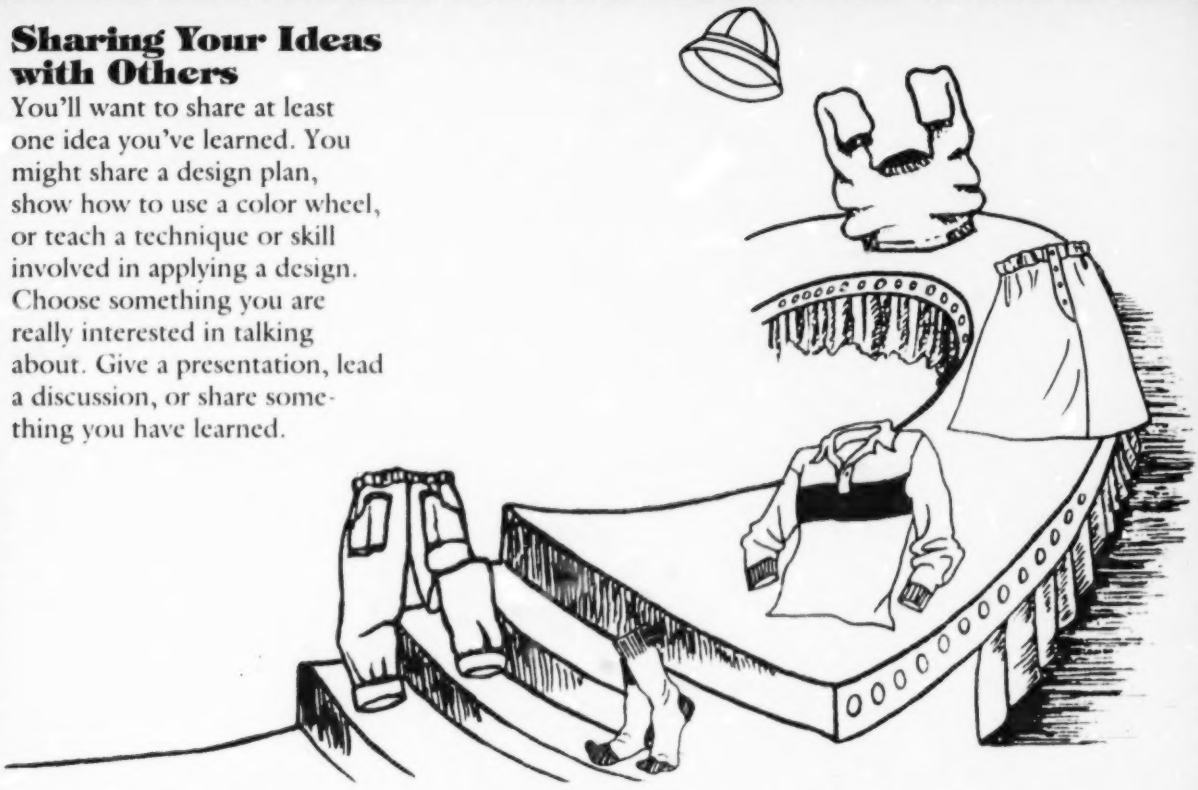
_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

Sharing Your Ideas with Others

You'll want to share at least one idea you've learned. You might share a design plan, show how to use a color wheel, or teach a technique or skill involved in applying a design. Choose something you are really interested in talking about. Give a presentation, lead a discussion, or share something you have learned.



Want to Know More?

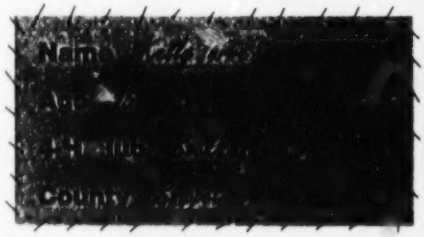
There are hundreds of books about design. You may want to learn about silhouettes and illustration. Or you might want to learn how design elements and principles apply to decorating a room, garnishing food, and painting a picture. They all are very similar! Study designs that are used in pattern catalogs, attend arts festivals, and try to locate resource people who can help you put what you know into action.

Exhibits and Fashion Revue

Check current fair or roundup listings for exhibit ideas. Don't forget to attach a fabric label to your garments with your name, age, county, and club. Activities in this project may or may not be suitable for modeling at fashion revue. Check entry information.

Taking the Project Again

You may take this project any number of times. You'll need to make something new so that you can learn new skills.



Prepared by Jan Scholl, associate professor of agricultural and extension education.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of Congress May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Legislature. L.F. Hood, Director of Cooperative Extension, The Pennsylvania State University.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; tel. (814) 863-0471; TDD (814) 865-3175.

© The Pennsylvania State University 1994.

Rv5M1194comm

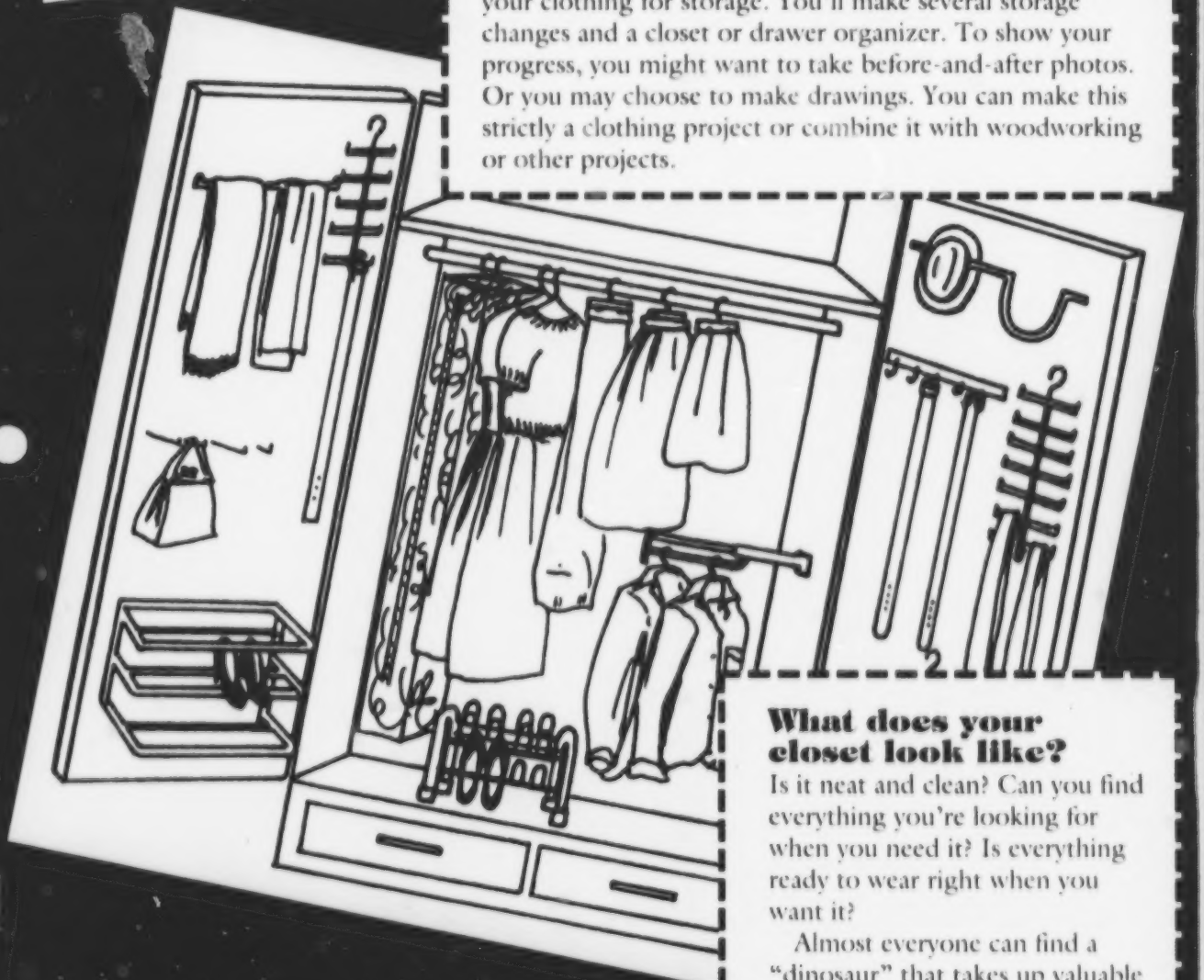
BEST COPY AVAILABLE

4-H Textile Science

Creative Project

Closet Connections

In this project, you'll look at your wardrobe and organize your clothing for storage. You'll make several storage changes and a closet or drawer organizer. To show your progress, you might want to take before-and-after photos. Or you may choose to make drawings. You can make this strictly a clothing project or combine it with woodworking or other projects.



What does your closet look like?

Is it neat and clean? Can you find everything you're looking for when you need it? Is everything ready to wear right when you want it?

Almost everyone can find a "dinosaur" that takes up valuable space in a closet or chest of drawers. Sometimes, when space gets cramped, clothes become wrinkled or end up over chairs, on the floor, or even in the laundry though worn only a few hours!

PENNSTATE

College of
Agricultural Sciences
Cooperative Extension

If your clothes could talk, what would they say?

If your clothes are talking about you, this project can help you manage your wardrobe.

It takes time to manage a wardrobe and keep it in good condition. So do it in small doses. For this reason, we've divided up your project work into sessions: things you can do at home and things you can do at your group meeting.

When you are working in your closet, try NOT to take everything out at once. You'll soon get tired and end up stuffing it all back in. It's better to work with only a few garments at a time.

Ugh! The bugs are eating me alive!
I've been washed so many times. I'm faded and worn out.
I'd be great if someone would fix my hem.
Somebody dribbled food all over me while watching TV.
I'm stiff. I haven't been washed in weeks!
I've been outgrown.
I'm out of style.

Session 1: At Home

Everything in your clothing storage areas should be clean and clearly visible, with like things stored together—sweaters with sweaters, shirts hung together, etc. The clothing you wear most often should be the easiest to reach in your closet.

An organized wardrobe helps you see what you have, what can be worn, and what needs to be repaired or retired. As you organize, evaluate your clothing. Can you give some garments new life by making new combinations? Are other garments outgrown, worn out, and not very trendy?

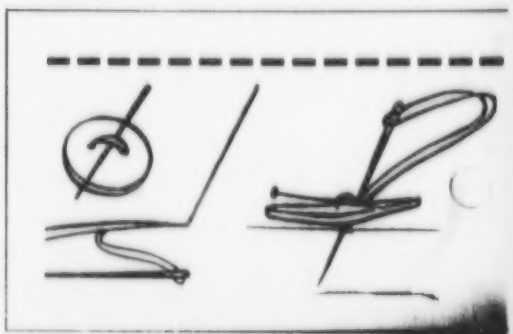
Take out clothes you haven't worn in at least a year. Try them on and divide them into five piles. Get a family member to help you make decisions about what to do with the garments.

Pile 1: Repairs you can make

Decide which repairs you can make yourself. Many repairs are very easy—a button sewn on or a stitched hem or seam. You also may want to prevent future repairs by double stitching underarm seams and areas that get the most wear.

Be sure to treat stains as soon as possible. Do not dry clothing until stains are removed. Set-in stains can shorten a garment's wearing life!

Make a separate pile for things that need to be taken to the drycleaner.



BEST COPY AVAI

Pile 2: Repairs for someone else to make

If your repairs involve changing sizes, altering a design, or recutting an armhole—or if it's a difficult-to-work-with fabric, leave it to the experts! Price the alterations you'll need and decide if it's really wise to keep the garment or to donate or sell it.

Pile 3: Outgrown or out of style

Clothing that is out of style may be recycled if it's still in good shape. Recycling can take a lot of time and patience, but often clothes can be updated by simply changing the buttons or using button covers, attaching shoulder pads, or raising the hem. Some clothing can be cut for cleaning rags and the buttons saved for other sewing projects. Keep one set of old clothing for jobs such as painting, washing the dog, etc.

Pile 4: Donations

Usable clothing that can't be recycled should be donated or sold. Consider how many shelters, community organizations, and charities need clothing! Try selling clothing at a rummage sale or swap clothing with your friends. More expensive clothing can be taken to a resale shop. The owners will take the clothing on consignment and send you a check if the items sell. Out-of-style clothing may be donated to a university or textile museum.

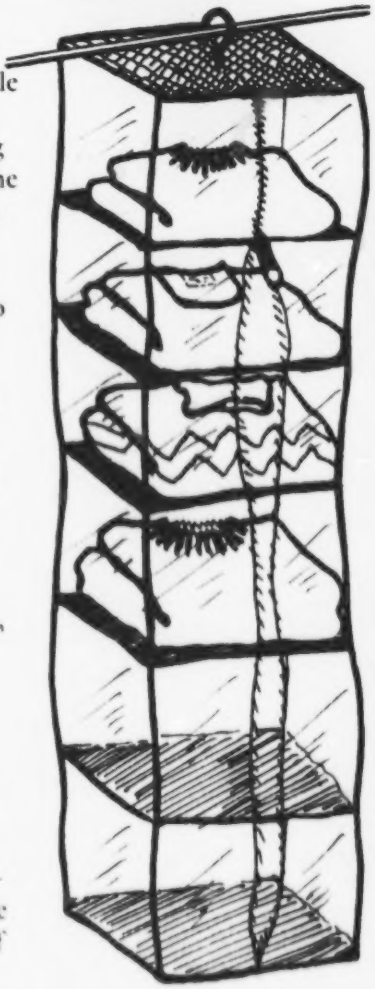
Pile 5: Special clothing you want to keep

There may be garments you no longer wear, but that are special to you in some way. These should be stored away from the clothing you use every day. Because these clothes are special, however, keep them out of the attic, basement, and garage. Light, moisture, fumes, and changes in temperature and humidity can ruin clothing.

Clothing and other fabrics, if stored for long periods of time, may need to be refolded periodically to prevent worn spots at the creases. (This is especially true of household linens and quilts.)

If you don't have extra storage space, consider storing garments in the back of your closet or in another room. You can also buy storage at a dry cleaner.

Sweater Storage



Between Sessions

Between now and the beginning of the next session, make plans to fix, repair, recycle, sell, and donate clothing. Work with a parent or leader to fix worn and torn clothing. You may want to set up a repair production workshop at your club meeting. Have everyone look at the repairs, decide what to do, and work on the problems together.

Sew on loose buttons

How to fold a sweater

1. Spread sweater out, front down.

Session 2: At Home

Organize your wardrobe as best you can. Think about your future clothing and storage needs.

Look at the rest of the clothes in your wardrobe. Count them and measure the amount of space they'll take when stored. You may want to separate clothing by season so you'll have an idea of what you can put in back of the closet or in other storage areas.

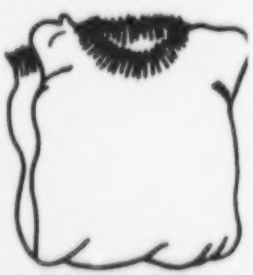
Organize your clothing as you would a recipe file. Hang similar items together—tops in one section, pants or skirts in another, and long garments at one end. Put hooks on closet doors or end walls to hold belts or ties or to keep tote bags handy. Fold and stack your sweaters neatly and measure the height of the pile.

Put your shoes and boots in a row, and measure how long it is or count how many shoes you have for a shoe holder. This will give you an idea how much space you need in your closet and in other storage areas. Be sure to plan for additional items, too. Store the garments you wear most where they are easy to reach.

Sweaters need to be stored folded or flat. Hangers tend to stretch sweaters and make bumps in the shoulder area. How to fold them is shown on this page.

Garment Storage Measurement Chart

Garments	Winter	Summer	Fall	Spring
Shirts or blouses				
Slacks or trousers				
Suits or two-piece outfits				
Dresses				
Coats				
Sweaters				
Shoes				
Boots				
Socks				
Underwear				
Night wear				
Sports clothes				
Ties or scarves				
Belts				
Bags				



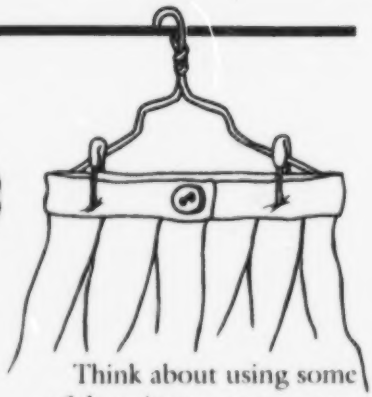
4. Fold up the bottom

Keep sweaters and other clothing clean so moths or other insects don't harm them. Check the label for care instructions.

Shirts or blouses should be hung or folded like sweaters. Avoid metal hangers, which can stain the garment if they become wet, or pad the hangers. Hangers come in different shapes and sizes. Choose ones that suit the shape and weight of each garment. Some hangers have special features like slits for narrow straps or belt hooks. There are special scarf and tie hangers, too.

2. Fold back each side

3. Fold the arms down



Slacks and skirts can be folded on a standard hanger or on special skirt-pants hangers. Some hangers are designed for a single garment and some can hold many garments. Whichever you select, make sure you can easily reach and pull out the garment you want without jarring other clothes.

Watch out—don't put more than one garment on a single skirt or pants hanger. Most hangers break easily!

Skirt and pants hangers also leave hard-to-remove impressions on the waistbands of your corduroy, velvet, and other napped and shiny surface fabrics. To prevent this, simply slip small strips of vinyl, wool, or velvet between the waistband and the clip. Or turn the garment inside out so the impression is made on the inside of the waistband.

Many products are available to help you use your storage space more effectively. These include hooks, shelving, rods, boxes, baskets, tins, and even dish pans. Check around your home for items you can use. Also look through sewing pattern catalogs for instructions on how to make closet and drawer organizers. You might want to visit drug or department stores to see how many hangers and storage organizers are available and what they cost.

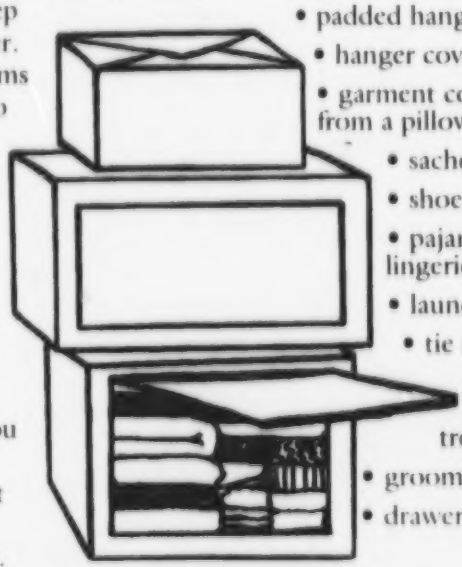
Between Sessions

Gather ideas that you think might work. What you are able to do depends on the structure of your closet and drawer space, the time you spend, and what you can afford.

Double-decking a closet, with two horizontal rods instead of one, handles shorter garments easily and doubles the hanging space in a closet. To do this, you may need to raise the top shelf of an ordinary closet. You'll also need to measure the length of garments you plan to tier before you start.

You probably have a drawer that is always messy because you have too many things in it and have to dig around! Existing drawer space can be divided by cardboard boxes to form cubby-holes that keep drawers neater.

Stacked items are difficult to pull out unless they have a divider in between. Overhead storage should have "flip-up" features so you can reach in easily without disturbing other storage.



Think about using some of these items or come up with your own ideas:

- hat and other storage boxes, covered or made from cardboard
- shoe boxes, labeled and stacked
- dish pan storage, placed on shelves
- jewelry pins on a small pillow
- clip-on earrings on a wire grid
- a tackle box or divided tray, or a compartmentalized hanger
- storage for pierced earrings and other jewelry
- covered cardboard tubes for rolling up rectangular scarves in a shallow drawer, or a scarf hanger
- belts hung from a wire ring
- padded hangers
- hanger covers
- garment cover made from a pillowcase
- sachets
- shoe bag
- pajama bag and lingerie bag
- laundry bag
- tie rack
- shoe pads and trees
- grooming cape
- drawer liners

These Care Symbols Appear on Garment Labels

Session 3: At Home

Put together a plan for your clothing storage. Devise a closet and drawer storage arrangement, and think about special and out-of-season storage. Make sketches of your storage plans. Be as detailed as you can. You probably won't be able to make all the changes you want right away, but having a plan will help you locate just what you need and, perhaps, help you find good prices!

Begin working on various arrangements and storage ideas. Go slowly, working on one thing at a time. Try to work without too many interruptions.

Get into the habit of hanging and repairing clothing right away. Prevent stains by shielding clothing while you eat and when you apply makeup, perfume or shaving lotions, nail polish and polish remover, creams, deodorant, acne products, and hair sprays.

Keep sewing and stain removal kits in the laundry, out of the reach of young children, together with clothing-care instructions.

A well-organized closet makes dressing simple—but it won't stay that way without care. Your closet is like a garden: it needs to be weeded and tended. Go through your closet every season and decide what you need to update.

Keep looking at ways to make storage and care easier. You may want to add special items from time to time. For example, a step stool will help you reach high items safely. You may also want to put together a sewing kit and shoe polish kit. A lint brush, static remedy, pill remover, snag repair tool, laundry and/or lingerie bag, shoe trees, and a shoe horn are also good to keep handy.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Organizing Your Closet Storage

Sketch in the arrangement of your closet after it is organized. Show the space you provide for items such as shoes and coats, and for items such as suitcases, that you store in your closet. If you share a closet, show the space allotted to the other person.

What I learned in this project (new skills, new words)

What I shared with others (presentations, helping other members, community service)

TOPIC OR SKILL	DATE	NO. OF PEOPLE WHO WATCHED

Did I participate in Fashion Revue? _____

Where? _____ When? _____

Project story

Draw sketches or attach photos of what your clothing storage looked like before you took this project and what it looks like now.

What are your plans to maintain or create new storage areas in the future?

Closet Connections Project Record

4-H Textile Science

Creative Project

Name _____

Address _____

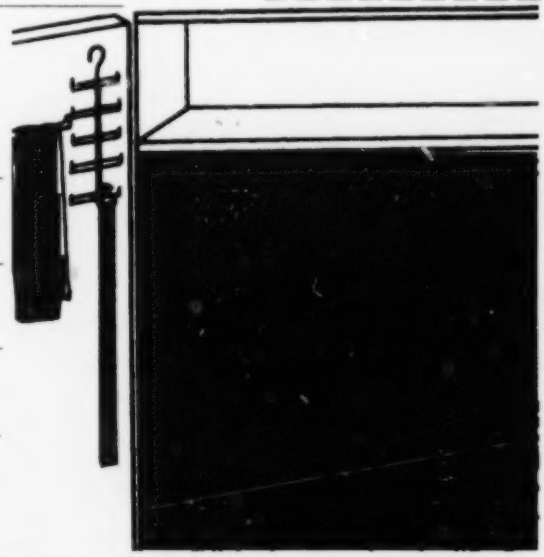
Age as of January 1 _____

Club _____

Number of years in this project _____

Number of years in Textile Science projects _____

Leader's signature _____



What I made for my project

ITEM	FIBER CONTENT	COST	HOURS TO MAKE

People who helped me and resources I used for this project

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

_____ _____

How I saved money or time by making improvements

_____ _____

_____ _____

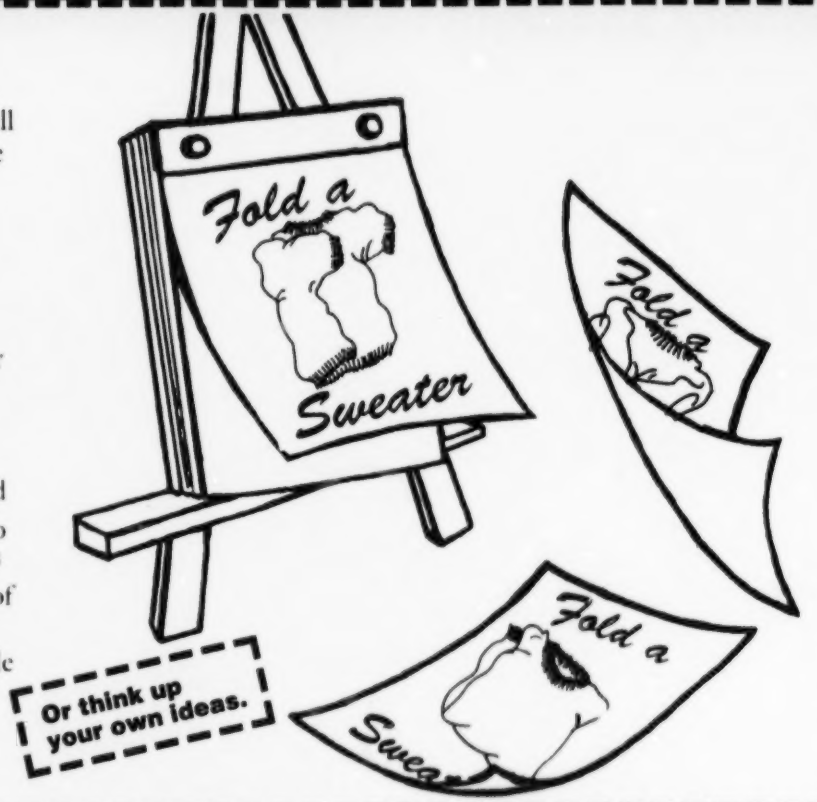
_____ _____

_____ _____

Sharing What You've Learned

Share at least one idea or skill with a group or friend. Here are some possibilities:

- Folding a sweater
- Washing a sweater
- Making double-decker storage in a closet
- Choosing the right hanger for a garment
- Storing jewelry, ties, or scarves
- Making an easy storage aid
- Developing good habits to prevent clothing problems
- Recognizing the hazards of dry cleaning bags
- Organizing a rummage sale
- Making clothing repairs



Or think up your own ideas.

Want to Know More?

Check the library and bookstore for books and magazines with information on closet storage. Catalogs can give you many ideas, and closet storage patterns are available too.

Exhibits and Fashion Revue

This project was not designed for modeling in a fashion revue. Check a current roundup or a fair premium listing to find out what you can enter as an exhibit. Every piece of your work should have a label printed with your name, age, club name, and county.

Name Kelly Tarve

Age 14

4-H club Socks and ties

County Snippet

Taking the Project Again

You may want to take this project more than once to carry out further storage improvements. You may also want to learn about items that can keep your wardrobe in shape (dress shields, shoulder pads, etc.) and what to do about special clothing problems. Why not make organizers or luggage for travel? Perhaps another person in your family or a friend needs special help with their storage.

Prepared by Jan Scholl, associate professor of agricultural and extension education.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of Congress May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Legislature. L.F. Hood, Director of Cooperative Extension, The Pennsylvania State University.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; tel. (814) 863-0471; TDD (814) 865-3175.

© The Pennsylvania State University 1994

R5M1194comm

Clothes Shopping

4-H Textile Science

Creative Project

Having new things to wear is fun and exciting, and isn't it great when someone notices? But getting the most out of the money we spend for clothing is a bit tricky these days. "There are so many places to shop! So many sales! So many choices! So many things my friends are wearing that are so-o-o expensive!" Sound familiar?

For this project, select one of two options:

1. Create an outfit or ensemble to wear that involves at least two shopping purchases.
2. Expand a planned wardrobe scheme by making at least two purchases.

. . . complete two or more of the following activities:

a. Order clothing from a catalog
b. Purchase services from an alterations shop
c. Purchase a garment that is made for you
d. Put a garment on "layaway"
e. Take several garments to a dry cleaner
f. Adjust a garment to increase its wear
g. Write a complaint or a complimentary letter to a company
h. Help someone else make a clothing purchase
i. Find out how a consignment store operates
j. Prepare and price clothing for a rummage sale

. . . and:

- Study a garment you wish to purchase and report on that information to at least one other person. Examples are shoes, jeans, T-shirts, or undergarments.
- Keep track of garments you purchased for several months and the care given to garments you own.
- Complete your record book.

PENNSTATE

College of Agricultural Sciences Cooperative Extension

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Wardrobe planning is an important step in the shopping process. Clothing that coordinates with new garments and accessories expands a wardrobe. Knowing what is in the closet and what shape it's in can make shopping easier and can help you make good choices.

Some people feel it's good to shop early in the season for basic wardrobe needs. That's when the selection is greatest and that's important if your size is not easy to find. Certainly it is good to be there the first day, if not the first hour, of a sale and, if possible, to know in advance what merchandise will be on sale.

Helpful Hints

- Buy the best quality you can afford for basic garments and spend less money on extras, accessories, or fads.
- Shop with a wardrobe plan and color swatches.
- Plan ahead for special occasions.
- Comparison shop in the time you have available.
- Obtain as much information from salespersons, but refuse to be emotionally influenced by friends or salespersons.
- Check the care label so you know how much time and money you'll be spending to care for the garment.
- Check the construction and fabric for any defects, especially if you are not allowed to return the garment. Try the garment on and look at it in a three-way mirror, if possible.
- Save all sales and order receipts.
- Buy clothing that looks good on you.
- Know the stores in your area and what services they offer.
- Study catalogs and fashion magazines to forecast new trends and examine how coordinates and accessories are put together.

Many people have no idea how much they spend on clothing each year. One way to know is to keep track. On the door of your closet keep a record of items you have purchased for a number of months. Note if a particular brand of clothing, a style, or a fiber content fits, wears, or washes better.

Don't forget to save money for underwear, socks and stockings, sleepwear, etc. Underwear is an important shopping purchase. You'll want undergarments that fit and support well, and that are easy to care for. (Look at that care label!) Lines, straps, or bows that show or bind are fashion problems, so consider this in your purchase.

Slips should fall about 1 inch above the bottom edge of the garment. If you have garments of several lengths you'll need several slips. Consider purchasing slips with slits to wear with skirts having back or side vents. Purchase quality garments that have fibers or finishes that prevent "static cling."

Kinds of Stores

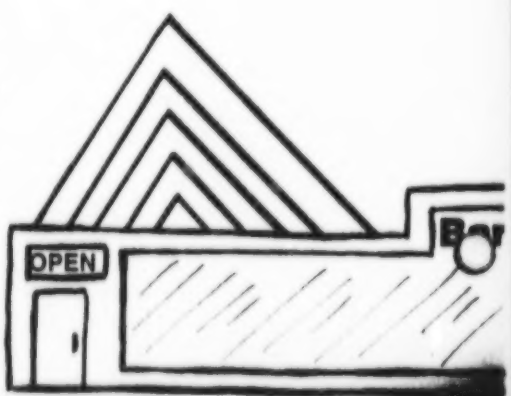
It's fun as well as smart to shop at different stores. No one type of store is the best place to shop for all clothing items. You may find several stores that have the size and style of clothing you like.

As you shop, keep in mind you are not only buying the clothing you find in the store, but also the services the store offers. Some of the services you may find are: returns, various types of charge accounts and layaways, alterations, and obtaining a garment that is out of stock or needed in another size.

Specialty shops carry limited quantities of clothing. These stores may charge more, but they often provide many personal services. Sometimes the services are reduced during sales.

Department stores offer a variety of goods in a wide range of prices. They also offer many services.

Chain stores are a group of stores under the same management in a region. There are also national chain stores. These stores have large quantities of the same item and have a fairly low mark-up in prices. Some chain stores are discount houses. Quality varies.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Factory outlets usually sell merchandise directly from a factory. Garments may be overstocked, slightly imperfect items, or "seconds."

Clothing exchanges can be a low-cost source of clothing. Thrift stores, consignment shops, rummage sales, or garage sales are just some of these. Secondhand clothing may be a bargain if it's clean and in good condition. But you may have to spend a lot of time shopping to find good buys.

Catalogs or mail order houses allow you to shop in your home. You will sometimes notice price differences in merchandise. Review return policies before ordering and keep a record of items ordered.

Finally, you may have a garment made for you by a seamstress. Be sure to check costs and make agreements about the work in advance.

Ordering from a Catalog

Catalogs can make shopping more convenient. You can order almost any time of the night or day, and there is a good selection of clothing to choose from. Catalogs can give you an idea of what's available and are a source for comparing prices. Some people save major catalogs in order to reference merchandise in upcoming sale catalogs or flyers. Recent catalogs may be available in the public library if you don't wish to receive them at home.

Catalogs have some helpful features: an index to help you find what you want, a chart of sizes, fiber and fabric descriptions, methods of care, and other clothing and design features and terms.

Notice what is said and what is not said about a garment in a catalog. Sometimes care instructions and other information are not included. The customer must know about the fiber content to find out if the garment is wrinkle prone, for example. But sometimes catalogs give useful extra information such as "the garment tends to run larger than most sizes."

Even if you are ordering by phone, complete the order form so that you'll have a record of your order. It is sometimes difficult to determine the exact color or fit of an item. When it arrives, handle the garment and the packaging carefully. That way, if you need to, you can send the item back right away for a refund. Sometimes a telephone call is required to approve the return, so read the order information carefully.

Paying for Your Purchases

You can pay for clothing in various ways: cash or check, charge card, layaway, revolving charge, and installment plan.

- A charge card allows you to pay for an item when you receive a bill for it in the mail. No interest is added if you pay in the stated time.
- Layaway allows you to purchase an item when there are plenty of garments in stock and your funds are few. You receive the item when you have made all the payments. There may be a layaway fee or down payment in some stores.
- Revolving charge allows you to use the garment before the debt is paid in full, but interest is charged, which involves extra cost.
- Using the installment plan, a down payment is subtracted and interest is figured on the remaining balance. Interest must be paid and usually no monthly statements are provided.

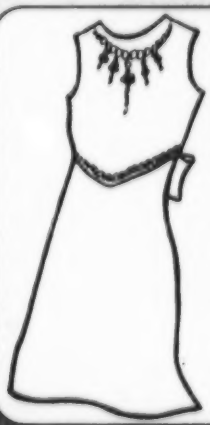
Some stores offer special credit programs, such as charge accounts for teenagers. You are expected to make regular payments as a charge customer. Interest may or may not be charged on the unpaid balance, depending on the policy of the store. Keep in mind that credit can add a good deal to the cost of the garment and tempt you to purchase more than you can afford.

Sometimes you can buy a similar item or one exactly the same in more than one store.

Purchase Examples

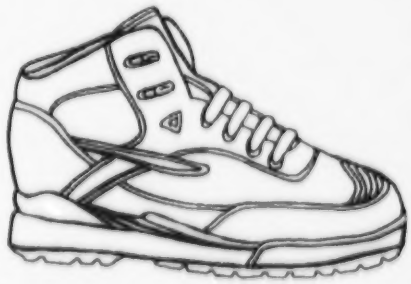
Assign a number that can tell how important you believe each alternative is. Use the following number code to rank each alternative in the situations below. Then explain why you ranked each the way you did.

1—most important to consider when buying
2—important to consider when buying
3—somewhat important to consider when buying
4—slightly important to consider when buying
5—not very important to consider when buying



Example 1:
Eva needs a formal dress for a Christmas party. She would like to find something "sparkly" and "pretty" but at a low cost.

____a. Color
____b. Price
____c. Brand name
____d. Quality and fiber content
____e. Garment care



Example 2:
Tom needs to purchase a new pair of shoes to replace a worn-out pair he wears often. Which of the following alternatives would you consider most important in deciding which pair of shoes to buy?

____a. Color
____b. Price
____c. Brand name
____d. Quality and features (height of heel, durability)
____e. Care of shoes

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Price a clothing or personal improvement item (shampoo, make-up, etc.) in three different locations.

Of course, you may want to consider some of the stores' services before you purchase a particular item, but cost comparison can save you money. If you are seriously considering buying an item, but you want to make sure the item is still there, you can ask the store to hold it for you for several hours or overnight.

Item: _____

Store	Brand	Size or weight	Price	Unit price*
1.				
2.				
3.				

*The unit price is the price per ounce or size. This is helpful if you are buying a product that comes in two different sizes. To figure a unit price, just divide the size into the price. For example, a bottle of lotion that has 10 ounces for $1.00 is 10 cents per ounce. Ten cents is the unit price. Compare it to a bottle that has 12 ounces for $1.80, which is 15 cents per ounce. In this case, the 10-ounce lotion is the better buy.

Clothing Sales

Clothing stores have sales for many reasons. Nearly all stores have certain regular sales, sometimes to move leftover merchandise at the end of a season and make room for new items. Some sales offer more real savings than others.

An understanding of the various types of sales will help you take advantage of them. Watch for announcements of sales and keep a record when each store has annual and semiannual sales so that you can plan in advance.

Shopping at sales is one way to stretch your clothing dollar, providing that:

- you need the garment
- it coordinates with your present wardrobe
- it fits correctly and does something for *you*
- you buy according to your spending plan
- you remember sales items seldom can be returned
- you know when a sale is really a sale

A good buy is anything that meets your needs at a price you want to pay. If you can get what you want for less money than usual, or if you can get better quality for the same money, you have made a good buy.

But just because you saved money on purchasing an item, it is not a bargain if you cannot use it. Items in your closet that you seldom wear probably seemed like bargains when you bought them. If the garment does not fit right, is not the right color, or is of poor quality, or if you don't have closet space for it, then your sale garment was not really a good buy after all.

Usually there's a reason for a markdown in price. Ask these questions before you buy!

- Is the style on the way out?
- Is it soiled, damaged, or shopworn?
- Is it irregular?
- Is the color true or faded?
- Is the construction poor?
- Is it a specific purchase by the store?
- Is it a seasonal change?
- Is it a hard-to-sell item?

Seasonal sales: These sales are held regularly at the end of the fashion season. Some stores stagger their seasonal sales starting with a smaller deduction one week, more of a deduction the next week, and a final deduction the last week. Other stores set up a series of sales days or even hours using this formula.

Clearance sales: Similar to seasonal sales, these sales get rid of old fashions and make way for new ones. Items may be shopworn. Color selection, styles, and sizes are limited.

Special purchase sales: Products are brought in specially for sale. These sales occur at odd times. Items may not be of the usual quality carried by the store, so it is difficult to get an idea of their value.

Anniversary sales: These are annual sales in honor of the store, with some regular stock and some specially purchased stock. Get to know the store's merchandise in order to save at an anniversary sale.

Stimulation sales: Used to promote the store during slow periods, these sales are known under names such as "back-to-school" or "sidewalk sales."

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Advertising

What costs $50,000 or more, lasts 30 seconds, and reaches thousands of people at a time? Yes, it's a television commercial.

Thirty-three billion dollars are spent on advertising in the United States each year. That's about $155 spent on each person in the country. On the average, every American consumer is bombarded with close to 1,000 advertising messages each day. Advertisements aren't just on television, though—they're on TV and radio, in buses, in flyers, at the movies, on billboards, and even on items that we've purchased, like magazines, newspapers, and books.

Become aware of advertising for clothing and personal appearance products. Collect advertisements that appeal to you. Videotape clothing advertisements on a camcorder or watch one of the cable television clothing sales shows for an hour. Write down the claims made about each product and, if a customer is interviewed, find out why he or she bought a particular product. Which ads grab your attention?

Share your observations with members of your club and other friends. Write a script for an ad and act it out in your club.

Here are some advertising techniques to watch for:

Appeal—it looks, smells, feels, or tastes great.

Snob appeal—it will make you look a little better than everyone else.

Good person—it shows how much you care about yourself, your family, or your friends.

Celebrity endorsement—a famous person uses it or says it's good.

Bandwagon—everyone will have it and you'll be left out.

Humor—the jokes or cartoons are funny or it makes you feel good.

Romance—an attractive person uses it or you'll be more attractive to an appealing person if you use it.

Guilt—people just like you are satisfied with it and you want to do the right thing.

Especially try to analyze advertisements that attract you.

Idea: Have each person in your club take a popular magazine and count the number of advertisements in the first 20 pages. How many did you find?

How to Make a Formal Complaint

What would you do if a ready-made garment didn't live up to claims about its performance? Throw it away, try to mend it? Return it to the store where you bought it?

Manufacturers won't know about problems with their product unless customers speak up. So next time you aren't satisfied with a purchase, here's what to do:

First, decide if you have a valid complaint. Did you abuse the garment in any way? You can't expect good performance if you didn't follow the care instructions or if you treated the garment carelessly. Some consumers pressure a merchant to make an adjustment or level criticism at a store when they really do not have cause for such action. But if you feel you have a legitimate complaint, you're ready to inform the store.

Return the item to the business as soon as possible. Present the sales receipt. Talk to the salesperson with whom you did business if possible. If the store has a complaint department, go there. If you don't get a satisfactory adjustment, ask to see the manager. Usually businesses with a reputation for dealing fairly with their customers will make a fair adjustment of complaints, partly because they want to protect their image and partly because they feel it's their responsibility.

If you can't make the complaint in person, write a letter clearly stating your complaint. A letter makes your complaint a matter of record. If possible, type your letter and keep a copy for yourself. Attach a copy of the receipt.

Buy Now!
20% Sale
NEW—NEWER—NEWEST

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A telephone call, on the other hand, is easy to ignore, but it may be fine for a simple problem. If you must phone, keep your cool no matter how angry you are. If you are angry, you will forget to give key facts. Ask the name of the person you are dealing with—it's easier to deal with someone when you know his or her name. This way if you have to make several calls or contacts you know who will know about your situation.

If possible, take the garment and the sales receipt with you when you make a complaint. Be sure to tell the sales clerk all the information about it:

- when you purchased it
- price when you purchased it
- how long you've had it
- number of times you've worn it
- care given the garment
- what's wrong with the garment
- other information that will help the person understand your complaint

Keep sales slips, price tags, and care instructions. If you complain in person, take along these records and copies of any letters you may have already written about the garment. You may want to bring extra copies of the letters to the store to give the clerk, but don't give away the originals.

Be polite! Sarcastic or abusive letters and phone calls are easily ignored by the complaint manager. Handled well and in good humor, your complaint will stand out and you'll receive attention more quickly. When customers are honest and friendly, retailers will usually bend over backwards to make an adjustment.

How will I know if I'm buying good quality?

Often people purchase clothing of major or national brands. This may not be a good indication of quality, because the brand may make several grades of clothing. Clothing of some national brands is faulty, and some may not fit your body. A better indicator is past experience with a product, but use the following features to judge clothing for yourself.

Garment cut and fabric seam allowance: Each of the fabric pieces in a garment should be cut on the straight of grain (unless it is a special designer or bias cut). Plaids, stripes, and large designs should be matched at the seamlines.

Seams: Wide seam allowances permit alterations to be made, with enough fabric left for secure seams. Finished seam edges stop raveling in woven fabrics. Knits will not ravel, but a seam finish in lightweight knits keeps seams flat and ensures a nice appearance. Often garments have a stabilizer in seams or in areas of strain to prevent stretching.

Stitching: Sewing machine stitches should be short and firm enough to hold the garment together without puckering. Check the firmness of the stitching by gently pulling the fabric on each side of the seam.

Zippers: Zippers should be smooth and flat, securely stitched, and of appropriate type, weight, length, strength, and color for the garment.

Buttons: Attractive buttons enhance the quality and look of any garment. Buttons should be firmly attached, properly placed, and suit the size and type of garment. Check to see if you can button and unbutton them easily.

Buttonholes: These should look neat and clean with no raw edges showing. They should be made with stitches that are close together and go deep into the surrounding fabric. Loosely sewn buttonholes will pull out and allow the fabric to ravel.

Hems: Hems should not show on the outside of the garment. They should be even in width and parallel to the floor. Hems need to be flat and smooth, but not appear overpressed.

Interfacing: Interfacing is used in the collar, labels, cuffs, neckline, and sleeve facing. It keeps the fabric from stretching out of shape and gives "body" to that particular area of the garment. Interfacing should not roll or twist.

If you choose to buy a garment of lesser quality, there are things you can do to improve its wear and appearance. You can stitch stabilizers in shoulder seams and other areas of stretch. You can stitch the garment twice under the arms, in the crotch area, or other area that receives a lot of strain. You can sew on the buttons again, purchase new ones, or use button covers.

Before you purchase a garment that has flaws, price the cost of the alterations or the time and expense of doing them yourself.

Select a garment and calculate the cost of purchasing it according to different types of credit plans.

*Type of garment*_____

	INITIAL COST	COST WITH CREDIT
Cash		
Regular charge		
Layaway		
Revolving charge		
Installment plan		

Look in recent newspapers and find five stores that advertise clothing sales. Check the advertisements and fill in the chart below:

NAME OF STORE	TYPE OF SALE	SAVINGS ADVERTISED	MONTH ADVERTISED

Recall a recent ready-to-wear purchase that proved unsatisfactory. Did you return it to the store where you bought it? Describe how you asked for a refund or exchange.

Project story

Tell what you learned in this project. Were you better able to buy clothing for your wardrobe? Were you able to save money? What experiences did you have finding garments or accessories that fit? Talk about the project you researched. How did others feel about your project? Did you create a shopping aid to help you? Add other information that you want to share or to keep for the future.

Clothes Shopping Project Record

4-H Textile Science

Creative Project

Name _____

Address _____

Age as of January 1 _____

Club _____

Number of years in this project _____

Number of years in Textile Science projects _____

Leader's signature _____

Ready-to-wear garments and accessories selected as part of your project this year

DATE	ITEM/GARMENT	DESCRIPTION	COMPARISONS MADE	PRICE TO MAKE

Attach a picture or drawing of ensemble.

Attach a list of other clothing purchases you have made this year.

Care of clothing

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF WORK DONE (PRESSING, STAIN REMOVAL, HAND WASHING, ETC.)

Name stores in your area that match these descriptions:

Men and boys wear _____

Women and girls apparel _____

Shoe stores _____

Catalogs you receive _____

Discount stores _____

Factory outlet stores _____

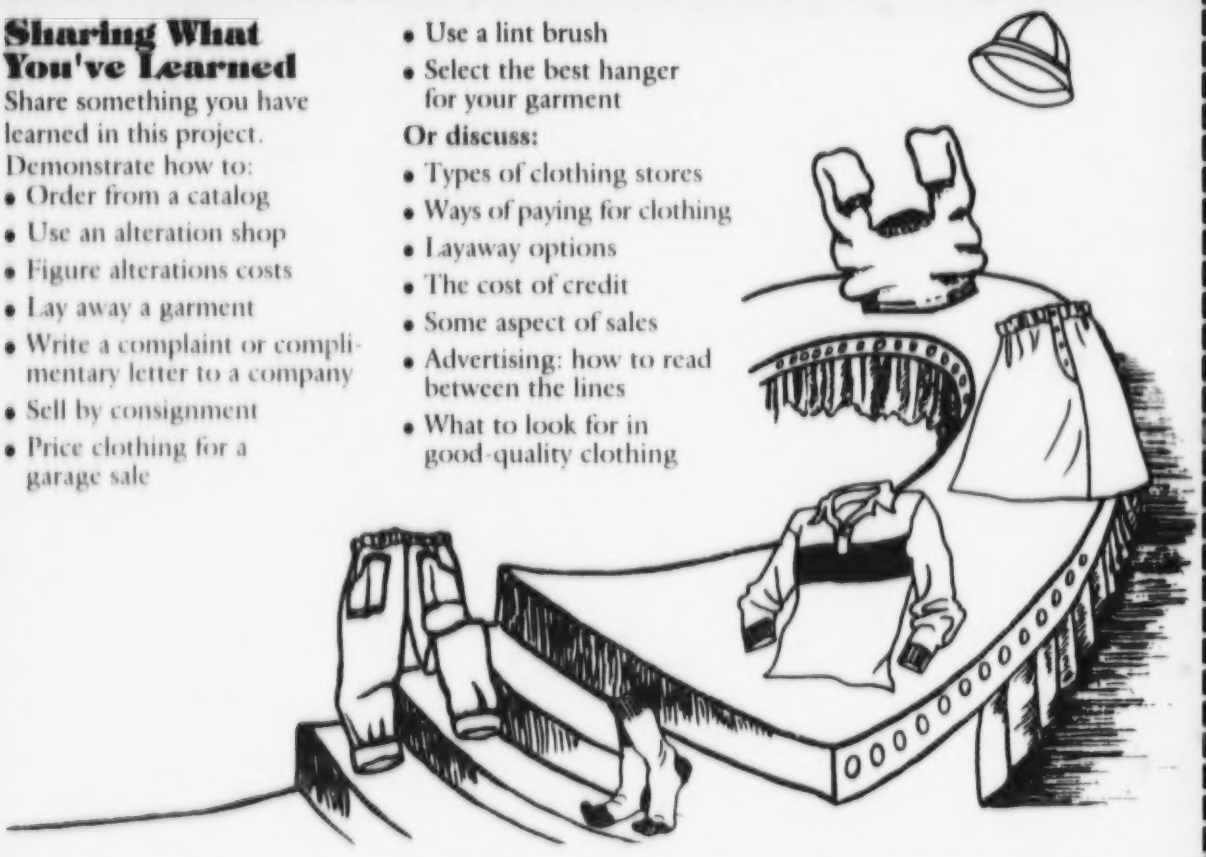
Sharing What You've Learned

Share something you have learned in this project. Demonstrate how to:

- Order from a catalog
- Use an alteration shop
- Figure alterations costs
- Lay away a garment
- Write a complaint or complimentary letter to a company
- Sell by consignment
- Price clothing for a garage sale
- Use a lint brush
- Select the best hanger for your garment

Or discuss:

- Types of clothing stores
- Ways of paying for clothing
- Layaway options
- The cost of credit
- Some aspect of sales
- Advertising: how to read between the lines
- What to look for in good-quality clothing



Want to Know More?

Resource ideas for this project can be found on PENpages. Ask about PENpages at your county extension office. Read about wardrobe planning and care in the Wardrobe Planning and Closet Connections projects.

Exhibits and Fashion Revue

Check current fair and roundup listings for exhibit ideas. Check fashion revue rules and entry information. Some revues may be open only to those who have sewn their garments. If so, why not organize a revue for a club meeting or for the public.

Taking the Project Again

If you have enjoyed this project, consider taking it again! Just select different activities and exhibits.

Prepared by Jan Scholl, associate professor of agricultural and extension education.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of Congress May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Legislature. L.F. Hood, Director of Cooperative Extension, The Pennsylvania State University.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; tel. (814) 863-0471; TDD (814) 865-3175.

© The Pennsylvania State University 1994.

R5M1194comm

Wardrobe Planning

4-H Textile Science

Creative Project

Want to make life easier? Spend less time deciding what to wear! Create a core wardrobe to mix, match, and update your favorites with trendy touches.

A wardrobe is a personal thing. What works for your best friend or for a family member may not work for you.

Each of us has different activities, interests, and personalities. What do you enjoy doing? Experiment with color and learn which styles look best on you.

If you haven't worked with color or proportion before, read over the design project or a book on art before starting. This will help you do the activities in this project. Keep a notebook and camera handy to record your ideas and some of your wardrobe combinations.

One of the best wardrobe expanders is a well-organized closet. Take the time to donate or sell clothes you never wear, and repair clothes that need altering and mending before you start this project.

Are you ready? Let's go!

In this project, you will:

- Study fashion trends
- Take an activity scan
- Develop a wardrobe inventory
- Plan for additional purchases or sewing of garments

PENNSTATE

College of Agricultural Sciences Cooperative Extension

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Fashion Trends and Ideas

During your project, scan fashion magazines and clothing catalogs for ideas you can use in your wardrobe. Identify current clothing trends by visiting local stores and becoming aware of what your friends are wearing. Be careful not to spend too much money on fads that are popular for only a short time.

Get to know fashion styles by name. Read the descriptions of garments on the back of pattern envelopes or in pattern magazines. Fashion sections in major newspapers and television shows can help you learn more about apparel trends, too.

Watch how actors and actresses on TV are dressed for their various roles. Do you see certain styles and colors on certain types of characters? What about the performers' coloring and features? Were certain colors selected to enhance their features?

Fabric stores sell wardrobe patterns that can help you learn what styles look good together. You can also find books on wardrobe planning at your library or bookstore. Such books can show you how to put a wardrobe of perhaps 9 items into 40 color-related combinations. They will also give samples of basic wardrobes, show you how to use accessories in trendy ways, and tell you how to decide which style of clothing is most suited to your body type.

Activity Scan

A carefully planned wardrobe means having clothes for activities that are important to you. The types of clothes you have should reflect those activities. So one way to discover your wardrobe needs is to do an activity scan.

Keep track of your activities for a week or more. Try to choose an average week, not the week of a vacation, prom, etc.

How much time do your spend in dressy clothes? Do you spend more time in casual clothes? Are you involved in active sports or are you a spectator? What types of clothes you have and how many depend on your needs.

Don't forget that your activities may change from time to time. Look ahead to what you will need and to fashion trends.

Mixing and Matching

To expand your wardrobe, discover combinations of garments you can put together with accessories you already have. Try out possibilities by "scarecrowing" an outfit on a bed or table. This will help you see a variety of possibilities before you actually try the clothes on.

When you pick out combinations, look for a design feature that ties the garments together. It may be a similar color, line, or print. Two or more plaids and prints can work together as long as they have a common design element, such as a color, and one of the plaids or prints is smaller in size (scale).

Have a full-length mirror handy, and keep the elements and principles of design in mind when mixing and matching combinations. A parent or close friend can help you make choices and can start a list of combinations that look good.

Choose one of these activities: (1) Select one item from your wardrobe and plan five different outfits from that item; (2) take three to six garments in your wardrobe and mix and match them to make a number of combinations; (3) take pictures from old catalogs and mix and match coordinates.

Inventory your Wardrobe

Working on a wardrobe takes time, thought, and effort, but the result is worth it! Begin with the clothing you already have. This is called "shopping in your closet." An inventory is a list that lets you know what you have so you can make mix-and-match combinations. If time is limited, work with clothing for just one season or for a certain purpose.

Every book on wardrobe planning has its own wardrobe inventory form. Pick the one that works for you. You may want to do an inventory on a computer, if you have one, because it's easy to keep the inventory up to date and easy to sort clothing by categories such as color and season. You can do an inventory using index cards, too.

Try on the Clothes

Be willing to take the time and effort to try various clothing combinations. Start with your favorites and the most expensive items in your wardrobe. Try on just a few items at a time and work with someone else to help you write down your comments about the combinations. (This person can also help hand you accessories and hang garments up when you are finished, making the experience less difficult and time-consuming.)

Be sure to look not only at the front of the garment, but at the back as well. If the combinations work well, write this down on the inventory form or take a photograph of the combination to mount in your closet.

Keep records of when you purchased an item, what it cost (attach receipts), care instructions, and drycleaning dates. If you loan garments, write down the date and name of the person who borrowed it. Other garments and accessories that work well can be noted, too.

Keep a notebook of ideas that can help extend your wardrobe or update some of the basics you have. Also keep a list, in your wallet or purse, of clothing items you need. If you sew or have fabric swatches from garments that have been altered or hemmed, keep them in a plastic wallet folder or in a small photo album for easy reference while shopping.

Purchase or Sew Items for Your Wardrobe

Now that you have a plan, visit department stores, thrift shops, or consignment shops to see what you can purchase or make to complete your wardrobe. Check recent clothing and pattern catalogs, too.

Before you buy, set limits on what you can spend for each item. Decide what you need first, second, and so on. Remember, building a wardrobe is an ongoing process.

Consider garment care. Choose garments with similar laundry instructions. Wearing a sweater that you send to the drycleaner with slacks that you wash at home will mean the garments will look different over time.

Drycleaning takes dollars from your budget and hand washing takes time and space. Manufacturers are only required to put one care option on their garment labels. But follow the directions or you may have an unwearable garment.

Check the end of a bolt of fabric for care instructions or the handtag on a purchased garment. You may decide to purchase or make all your needed garments, or you may decide to buy some and make others. Don't forget, accessories can extend combinations. Clothing and fabric stores often group similar fabrics and accessories together to help you do this.

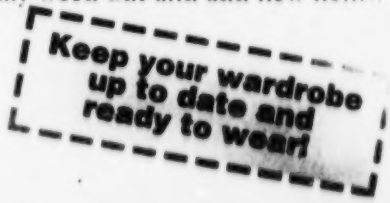
Consider where and how long you'll wear each garment you buy. Quality clothing will usually perform better and last longer. Quality means a well-made fabric, a good design, and good clothing construction.

Cost per wearing is important, too. An inexpensive shirt may seem like a bargain, but if you wear it only five times, the cost per wearing may be considerably more than an expensive shirt worn once a week. The true cost per wearing is the total cost divided by the number of times worn. Look at these examples:

Item	Cost	Times worn	Cost per wearing
Winter coat	$150.00	150 times over 3 years	$0.50
Formal	$ 80.00	Two times	$40.00

You might also figure the cost of separates, shoes, or personal grooming products!

Good wardrobe planning requires care, repair, and skill in selecting and sewing garments. It involves creative thinking and experimenting. It is much like gardening, because you continually weed out and add new items.



What I learned in this project (new skills, new words)

What I shared with others (presentations, helping other members, community service)

TOPIC OR SKILL	DATE	NO. OF PEOPLE WHO WATCHED

Did I participate in Fashion Revue? _____

Where? _____ When? _____

Project story

Use this space to write about your project. What did you do? What did you enjoy doing most? Least? Tell where you wore or will wear your outfit.

Tell about the type of pattern you chose and the fiber content of your fabric(s). Attach sample swatches. Talk about the sewing resources you used, the resource people who helped you, and your group activities.

Include a photo or sketch of your final outfit, complete with accessories.

Wardrobe Planning Project Record

4-H Textile Science

Creative Project

Name _____

Address _____

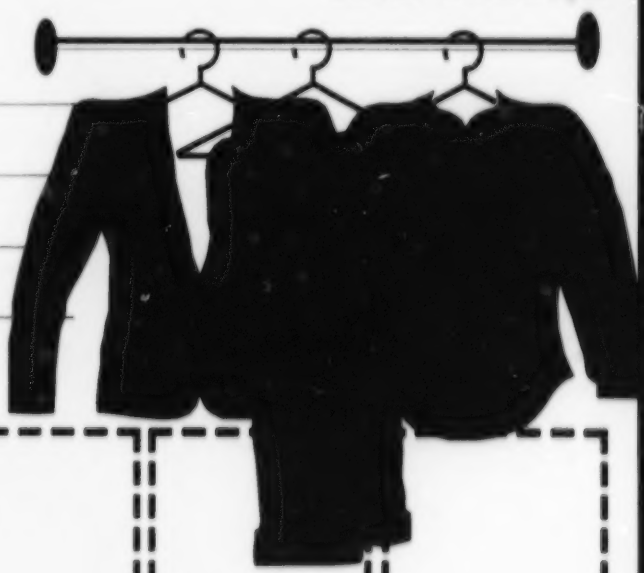
Age as of January 1 _____

Club _____

Number of years in this project _____

Number of years in Textile Science projects _____

Leader's signature _____



Include here a drawing or photo of five possible combinations using three garments and three accessories:

Tell what you did and learned in this project. (Talk about new combinations you found doing your wardrobe inventory and how others helped you.)

_____

_____

_____

What garments did you make or buy as a part of this project? Attach a list if needed.

_____

_____

_____

What did you share with someone else? How did you do this?

_____

_____

_____

Do a cost-per-wearing analysis of three items in your wardrobe. Write the results here:

1. _____

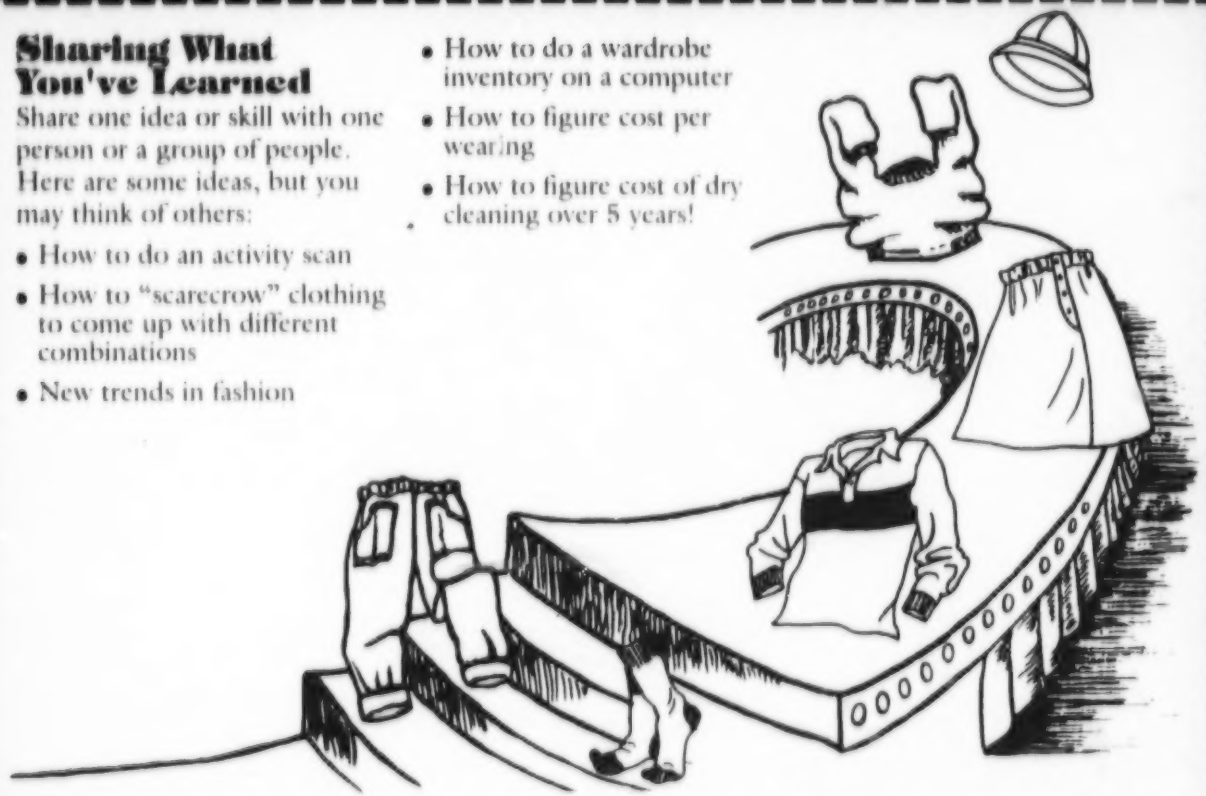
2. _____

3. _____

Sharing What You've Learned

Share one idea or skill with one person or a group of people. Here are some ideas, but you may think of others:

- How to do an activity scan
- How to "scarecrow" clothing to come up with different combinations
- New trends in fashion
- How to do a wardrobe inventory on a computer
- How to figure cost per wearing
- How to figure cost of dry cleaning over 5 years!



Want to Know More?

Continue to read books and magazines on wardrobe planning. Study how "experts" put together combinations using very few items. Notice how they layer basics and use accessories to express fashion trends.

Exhibits and Fashion Revue

Check current fair or roundup listings for exhibit ideas. Be sure to label each exhibit with name, age, group, and county. Check fashion revue rules if you want to model a garment.

Taking the Project Again

You may take this project more than one year! You could develop a special wardrobe for college or a new job; a layette for a baby; or, perhaps, a wardrobe for someone who has a disability. You may also choose to make a wardrobe from a wardrobe pattern and experiment with fabrics and fibers that go together. Or experiment with units or elements (basic tubes of knit fabric that can be mixed and matched).

Prepared by Jan Scholl, associate professor of agricultural and extension education.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension Work, Acts of Congress May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Legislature. T. F. Hood, Director of Cooperative Extension, The Pennsylvania State University.

This publication is available in alternative media on request.

The Pennsylvania State University is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to programs, facilities, admission, and employment without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. The Pennsylvania State University does not discriminate against any person because of age, ancestry, color, disability or handicap, national origin, race, religious creed, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status. Direct all inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policy to the Affirmative Action Director, The Pennsylvania State University, 201 Willard Building, University Park, PA 16802-2801; tel. (814) 863-0471; TDD (814) 865-3175.

© The Pennsylvania State University 1994.

R5M1194comm